GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3541
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2015
Threat to Himalayan Region
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Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the GSI has reportedly given warning about the threats to the Himalayan Region;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
(c) whether the Government has constituted a Committee to study the effects on Himalayan Region;
(d) if so, the details thereof; and
(e) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

(a): Geological Survey of India (GSI) has not given any warning about the threats to the Himalayan Region.

(b): GSI has given a report about future possible risk of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) from the expanding proglacial lake of Gepang Gath glacier, draining into Chandra River near Sissu village in Lahaul area, of Lahaul & Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh. The work has been carried out in 2012, 2013 and 2014. The report was sent to the Chief Secretary of Himachal Pradesh, the Deputy Commissioner of Lahaul & Spiti district, HP and the Secretary, National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), New Delhi. It was also put on the GSI-portal.
In the report it was explained that there is no immediate threat of GLOF, but as the lake area is expanding every year, there could be a GLOF-risk in future. Steps for the mitigation of GLOF-risk are required.
Based on the GSI report, the Deputy Commissioner of Lahaul & Spiti district had sent two civil expert teams, with the GSI field officers, to Gepang Gath Lake successively in 2013 and 2014. A wire-crated stone-lined safety trench is proposed to be made by the concerned State civil authorities through a safety-breach site identified by GSI. This safety trench will drain away any sudden rise in water level in the lake.

(c) & (d): The Ministry has no plans of constituting a high level committee to conduct a study of the Himalayan region GSI carries out glaciological, earthquake and landslide studies in parts of Himalayan region through its annual Field Season Programme.

(e): As detailed at (b) above